

2017 SPECIALTY CROP MULTI-STATE PROGRAM

Grant Management Procedures Manual

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California Department of Food and Agriculture Office of Grants Administration

1220 N Street, Room 120

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 657-3231

grants@cdfa.ca.gov

Table of Contents

Overview	1
Authority and Program Purpose.....	1
Purpose of the Grant Management Procedures Manual.....	1
General Responsibilities	1
Office of Grants Administration	1
Multi-State Partners	1
Multi-State Partner Resources	1
Prior Approval Required.....	2
Project Management	3
Compliance with Federal Requirements	3
Allowable Costs	3
Unallowable Costs	3
Direct and Indirect Costs.....	4
Indirect Cost Rate	4
Charging Direct and Indirect Costs Consistently.....	4
Scope of Work Revisions.....	5
Line Item Shift Requests.....	5
Notification of Problems and Delays	5
Program Income.....	6
Cost Share	6
Timekeeping Requirements	6
Travel	6
Restriction on Travel to States with Discriminatory Laws	6
Domestic Travel.....	6
Foreign Travel.....	7
Rental Vehicle.....	7
Privately Owned Vehicle	7
Parking	7
Air Travel.....	7
Contractors/Consultants	8
Competitive Process.....	8
Written Agreement.....	8
Compensation	8
Justification for Compensation Exceeding Maximum Rate	8
Indirect Costs for Contractors/Consultants	9
Equipment.....	9
Publicity and Acknowledgment.....	9
Publicity	9
Acknowledgment of Support	9

Invoicing.....	11
Invoicing for Payment of Grant Awards.....	11
Reimbursement Payments.....	11
Invoices.....	11
When to Submit Invoices	11
Completing an Invoice	11
Withholds.....	11
Withhold Payment Notification.....	11
Withhold Pending Closeout.....	12
Reporting Requirements.....	13
Progress Reports	13
Final Performance Report.....	13
Single Audit Requirements	13
Compliance and Remedies for Noncompliance	14
Compliance Reviews	14
Remedies for Noncompliance.....	14
Additional Conditions.....	14
Termination of Grant Agreement.....	15
Appeal Process.....	15
Closeout.....	16
Property Management and Disposition.....	16
Scientific Research Equipment	16
Property Records.....	16
Disposition of Scientific Research Equipment and Supplies	16
Record Retention	16

Overview

Authority and Program Purpose

The 2017 Specialty Crop Multi-State Program–Farm Bill is authorized by section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note), amended under section 10010 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79), and implemented under 7 CFR part 1201 (published March 27, 2009; 74 FR 13313).

The purpose of the Specialty Crop Multi-State Program (SCMP) is to fund collaborative, multi-state projects that address the following specialty crop issues at the regional or national level: food safety; plant pests and disease; research; crop-specific projects addressing common issues; and marketing and promotion.

Specialty crops are fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture). Visit USDA’s [“What is a Specialty Crop”](#) website for a list of eligible and ineligible commodities.

Purpose of the Grant Management Procedures Manual

The 2017 SCMP Grant Management Procedures Manual (GMP) is designed to provide direction to Multi-State Partners for the successful management of SCMP federally funded projects. The GMP identifies the roles and responsibilities of all parties and describes the processes and procedures required by the terms and conditions in the Grant Agreement.

General Responsibilities

Office of Grants Administration

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Office of Grants Administration (OGA) manages SCMP Grant Agreements and ensures Multi-State Partners are compliant with applicable federal regulations and requirements and grant terms and conditions. The OGA also provides Multi-State Partners with technical assistance throughout the Grant Agreement term.

Multi-State Partners

Multi-State Partners are the primary recipient designated on the grant agreement and the project partners identified as contractors in the scope of work. Multi-State Partners implement the grant agreement scope of work and ensure all project activities comply with applicable federal regulations and requirements and grant terms and conditions. Multi-State Partners should contact their assigned Grant Specialist for assistance.

Multi-State Partner Resources

Forms and templates referenced in this manual, as well as other resources, can be found on the CDFA SCMP [Multi-State Partner Resources page](#).

Prior Approval Required

Prior approval is required from OGA and, in some instances, USDA for the following:

- Revision of the scope of work, objectives, work plan, activities, milestones, dates, or deliverables
- Budget changes
- Line item shifts
- Purchase of special purpose equipment
- Rental of land
- Foreign travel
- Contracting out or obtaining the services of a third party
- Contractor/consultant rates in excess of [GS-15, Step 10](#)
- Fixed amount/flat rate contracts
- Change in Multi-State Partner organization or key personnel
- Absence of key personnel
- Selling and marketing costs
- Participant support costs (stipends)

The information required for a request for approval varies according to the type of approval sought. Multi-State Partners should contact the assigned Grant Specialist for the information required for their specific situation.

Failure to obtain prior approval may result in costs being deemed unallowable and request for reimbursement being denied.

Project Management

Compliance with Federal Requirements

Guidance for federal awards is published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The CFR is accessible through the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations at www.ecfr.gov.

Grant funds awarded to state, local, and tribal governments; public and private colleges and universities; and non-profit organizations are subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards contained in [2 CFR part 200](#) and [2 CFR part 400](#).

Grant funds awarded to federal government entities are subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements and Cost Principles for Federal Awards contained in [2 CFR part 200](#) and [2 CFR part 400](#).

Grant funds awarded to for-profit organizations are subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements contained in [2 CFR part 200](#) and [2 CFR part 400](#), and the Cost Principles contained in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 31.2, Contracts with Commercial Organizations, codified at [48 CFR 31.2](#).

Multi-State Partners are responsible for the consistent application of federal regulations to the SCMP grant funds. Multi-State Partners are responsible for ensuring their contractors/consultants comply with federal regulations.

Allowable Costs

A cost is allowable if it directly relates to the approved project and is incurred solely to advance work under the Grant Agreement. Allowable costs may include salaries and wages, fringe benefits, consultant services, travel, scientific research equipment, subcontractors and materials, data collection and analysis, land rentals, and training.

Expenditures must conform to USDA and CDFA program requirements, be made in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations as applicable, and be:

- Necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient performance and administration of the project.
- Authorized or not prohibited under federal, state or local laws or regulations.
- Consistent with policies, regulations, and procedures that apply uniformly to both federal and state funds and other activities of the governmental unit.
- Determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- Adequately documented.

Unallowable Costs

A cost is unallowable if it does not comply with applicable cost principles, program requirements, or other terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement. A cost is also unallowable if it does not solely benefit specialty crops, is not contained in the approved scope of work, or is not necessary and reasonable to advance the work of the project. Unallowable costs will not be reimbursed.

Specific expenses that are unallowable include, but are not limited to, costs that benefit non-specialty crops, sponsorships, hospitality suites, incentives, donations, gifts, giveaways, alcoholic beverages (except when the costs are associated with enhancing the competitiveness of a processed product), costs of entertainment (including amusement, diversion and social activities, and any costs directly associated with such costs such as tickets to shows or sports events, meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, and gratuities), costs associated with promoting an organization or membership building, costs associated with lobbying, and costs for organized fundraising including financial campaigns and solicitation of gifts.

Questions regarding allowable costs should be directed to the assigned Grant Specialist.

Direct and Indirect Costs

Indirect Cost Rate

Indirect costs for the SCMP are limited by federal statute to eight percent (8%) of total direct costs. This includes both costs for CDFA to administer and indirect costs for Multi-State Partners. CDFA requires 25 percent of federally awarded indirect costs to cover its administration of SCMP grant awards, resulting in an effective maximum indirect cost rate for Multi-State Partners to six percent (6%) of total direct costs. Indirect costs may not be increased from the originally approved budget amount. This also applies to the Multi-State Partners' contractors/consultants.

Charging Direct and Indirect Costs Consistently

It is not allowable to charge an indirect cost as a direct cost. Multi-State Partners are responsible for presenting costs incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances consistently and must not include costs associated with their organization's indirect costs as direct costs.

Direct costs are costs that can be identified specifically with a particular project or can be directly assigned to a project activity relatively easily with a high degree of accuracy. Typically, direct costs include, but are not limited to, compensation for employees who work directly on the project, travel, equipment, and supplies necessary to the project.

Indirect costs (also known as "facilities and administrative costs") are costs incurred for a common or joint objective that cannot be identified specifically with a particular project. Typically, indirect costs include, but are not limited to, compensation for executive officers, and administrative and clerical staff, costs of operating and maintaining facilities, general administration expenses (such as supplies that cannot be identified specifically with a particular project), accounting and personnel services, depreciation, and insurance.

The salaries of administrative and clerical staff should normally be treated as indirect costs. However, direct charging of these costs may be appropriate where all of the following conditions are met:

1. Administrative or clerical services are integral to the project or activity;
2. Costs involved can be specifically identified with the project or activity;
3. Such costs are explicitly included in the approved budget; and,
4. The costs are not also recovered as indirect costs.

All criteria above must be met before a determination can be made whether the costs are allowable as direct costs. Approval must also be obtained from OGA and in some instances, USDA. Compliance with other requirements, such as timekeeping requirements, must also be met.

The following are examples of costs typically considered indirect:

- Information technology services
- Rent
- Utilities and internet service
- Telephone service (mobile and land-line)
- General office supplies

Scope of Work Revisions

Scope of Work (SOW) revisions are required when activities, milestones, dates, deliverables, and or budget changes. Requests for revisions must be made in writing and provide sufficient information to explain the need and how the change affects the project. Revisions must be requested by an authorized official of the Multi-State Partner organization, and approved by OGA and in some instances, USDA. Reimbursement is available only for approved project activities. Failure to obtain prior approval of SOW revisions may result in costs being deemed unallowable and request for reimbursement denied.

Examples of project changes that require a SOW revision include, but are not limited to:

- Changes within the budget line items (addition/deletion of personnel, travel, supplies, etc.).
- Transfer of project work to a third party through a contract, sub-grant, or any other means.
- Replacement or changes in the status of the Principal Investigator or Project Director such as withdrawing from the project entirely, being absent during any continuous period of three months or more, or reducing the time base by 25 percent or more.
- The addition or deletion of activities, deliverables, or a contractor/consultant, or revisions to existing activities, deliverables, or contractor/consultant activities or deliverables.
- Change of Multi-State Partner(s), organization name(s), or organizational status.

Line Item Shift Requests

In the event a change to the projects budget line items is necessary, Multi-State Partners are required to complete and submit to OGA a SOW revision along with a Line Item Shift Request (LISR) in advance to adjust budget line items. Approval for the LISR must be obtained from OGA prior to incurring costs under the revised budget.

The following restrictions and requirements apply to LISRs:

- The project award amount cannot be increased or decreased through this process.
- The indirect budget line item cannot be increased from the originally approved budget amount.
- If cumulative LISRs result in a budget change of 20 percent or more, USDA approval will be required.
- LISRs must be accompanied by a SOW revision.

Notification of Problems and Delays

Multi-State Partners must immediately notify OGA of any delays, problems, and/or adverse conditions that may materially affect the project. Examples include but are not limited to: inability to collect data, conduct research, or complete any activity according to the work plan or work plan schedule; substituting

commodities identified in the work plan; inability to fill vacant positions resulting in activities being delayed or eliminated. Some problems and delays may require a SOW revision.

Program Income

Program income is earned from activities supported by or as a result of the grant. Program income must be reinvested into the project to further enhance the project objectives and must be expended on allowable project costs that solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. It is unallowable to retain program income as profit or funding for the Multi-State Partners or to expend program income on unallowable costs.

Program income is reported on invoices, progress reports and final reports. Reporting on progress and final reports includes the nature or source of the program income (e.g., registration fees) and the amount.

Cost Share

Cost share refers to matching funds and/or in-kind contributions. The Multi-State Partners are to notify the Grant Specialist if the amount or activities covered by the cost share has changed.

Cost share is reported on progress reports and final reports. Reporting on progress and final reports includes the type of cost share (i.e., matching funds or in-kind contributions) and the amount.

Timekeeping Requirements

Activity reports are required to support salary and wage and fringe benefit expenditures charged to SCMP grants. Each report must account for the total activity for which each employee is compensated, as well as the hours worked on a particular SCMP grant project. A description of activities must be included, and the description must include enough detail to determine whether the activity is project-related. This also applies to salaried employees, such as Executive Directors (reference [2 CFR 200.430](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-200/subpart-4/section-200.430)). Costs not adequately supported are unallowable and will not be reimbursed.

Travel

All travel costs must be substantiated by receipts. Costs not substantiated by receipts are considered unallowable and will not be reimbursed. Credit card statements are not acceptable as receipts to support travel costs.

Restriction on Travel to States with Discriminatory Laws

California Assembly Bill 1887 prohibits the use of state-funded or state-sponsored travel to any state that has enacted discriminatory laws or practices. The Attorney General will maintain a current list of states that are subject to the travel prohibition on its website: <https://oag.ca.gov/ab1887>. The following states are currently subject to California's prohibition on state-funded or state-sponsored travel: Alabama, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas. Costs associated with travel to the states affected by this restriction are unallowable.

Domestic Travel

Reimbursement is for actual costs up to the maximum allowance for meals, incidentals, and lodging expenses for each complete 24 hours of travel. Travel rates may not exceed the Multi-State Partners' established policies. In the absence of an established policy, the maximum travel rates allowable are

those established by the United States (U.S.) [General Services Administration \(GSA\)](#).

Foreign Travel

Note: Foreign travel requires prior approval from OGA and USDA. Please see [Prior Approval Required](#) on page 2.

Reimbursement is available for actual costs up to the maximum allowance for meal, incidental, and lodging expenses when traveling out of the country. The maximum international travel rates allowable are established in a supplement to section 925, U.S. Department of State Standardized Regulations. These per diem rates are available on the U.S. Department of State [website](#).

Rates are subject to change daily to account for currency and economic changes.

- Reimbursement for meals and lodging plus incidental travel expenses will be paid up to the rates identified on the U.S. Department of State's website.
- The lodging allowance is intended to substantially cover the cost of lodging at adequate, suitable and moderately priced facilities.
- Travelers are advised to request information on hotel discounts for Multi-State Partners traveling on U.S. Government business.

Rental Vehicle

Multi-State Partners should utilize the most economical rental vehicle option available. Reimbursement is up to the actual cost. Excessive costs will be disallowed or reduced to a reasonable, allowable rate. In cases where there is a need for another type of vehicle (such as several people traveling together with luggage or carrying equipment), the Multi-State Partners must provide a justification to the Grant Specialist.

Fuel reimbursement when using a rental vehicle will be at the actual cost for the fuel, and must be supported with receipts.

Privately Owned Vehicle

Mileage reimbursement for using a privately owned vehicle will be at the standard mileage rate established by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in effect at the time of travel. The standard mileage rate in effect at the time of travel can be found on the IRS [website](#). Mileage logs should be utilized to substantiate mileage costs.

Parking

Multi-State Partners should utilize the most economical parking option available. Reimbursement for parking is up to the actual cost. Excessive costs will be disallowed and/or reduced to a reasonable, allowable rate.

Air Travel

Reimbursement is available up to actual airfare expenses incurred.

- Economy-based rates are to be used by all travelers.
- International travel must comply with the [Fly America Act](#), U.S.C. Title 49 § 40118. This Act requires consultants, contractors, grantees, and others performing U.S. Government financed foreign air travel to travel by U.S. flag air carriers with some exceptions.

Contractors/Consultants

Multi-State Partners may contract for services that cannot be provided by staff employed by the primary recipient or project partners. Generally, these services are for a short-term period and provide a specific and identifiable product or service. Multi-State Partners are responsible for ensuring their contractors/consultants comply with applicable federal regulations and requirements. Contracting out must not affect the Multi-State Partners' overall responsibility for the management of the project, and the Multi-State Partners must reserve sufficient rights and controls to enable it to fulfill its responsibilities for the project.

Multi-State Partners must establish and follow a documented procurement policy which conforms to applicable federal law and reflects applicable state, local and tribal laws and regulations. Reference [2 CFR 200.318](#) for additional information on general procurement standards.

Prior approval is required when contracting out or obtaining the services of a third party. Please see [Prior Approval Required](#) on page 2 and [Scope of Work Revisions](#) on page 5.

Competitive Process

Federal regulations require all procurement transactions be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition and consistent with the procurement standards of [2 CFR 200.317 – 200.326](#).

Note: Project Partners of the primary recipient are exempt from the requirements of this section.

Written Agreement

The Multi-State Partners must have a written agreement with each contractor/consultant. The written agreement must include at a minimum: beginning and ending dates, dollar amount of the contract, a description of activities, services or deliverables to be performed with a time schedule, a budget, the cost principles to be used in determining allowable costs, payment provisions, and the policies and requirements that apply to the contractor/consultant (including those required by [Appendix II to 2 CFR 200](#)). The budget must include the same line item categories as the Grant Agreement budget.

Compensation

Contractor/consultant invoices provided to the Multi-State Partners must include sufficient detail and information to determine that the expenditures invoiced are project related, reasonable and allowable.

Contractors/consultants must comply with federal requirements regarding timekeeping. Hourly or salaried compensation (including hourly rates for "Professional Services") for contractors/consultants may not exceed [GS-15 step 10](#) for the Multi-State Partners' locality unless a justification is provided and approved.

Compensation based on a flat-rate for services requires pre-approval from OGA and USDA. When utilizing a flat-rate for services, Multi-State Partners must include a justification for the flat-rate fee and demonstrate the rate is reasonable and consistent with fees in the marketplace for similar services. The inclusion of costs that would otherwise be unallowable within a flat-rate for services is prohibited.

Justification for Compensation Exceeding Maximum Rate

Compensation for contractors/consultants may not exceed [GS-15 step 10](#) unless one of the following is provided to and approved by OGA and, in some instances, USDA:

1. A description of the steps taken to hire a contractor, which includes obtaining and providing a cost/price analysis (i.e., a quote or bid) from at least three contractors who can perform the service. The purpose of the cost analysis is to review and evaluate each element of cost to determine reasonableness; or
2. Due to the complexity or uniqueness of the project, the pool of available and qualified contractors is limited. The unique qualifications of the contractor and a justification regarding why those unique qualifications and proposed contractor are required for the project must be provided. The justification must include a description of the steps taken to hire a contractor and how the determination was made that the pool of available and qualified contractors is limited.

Note:

- *Project Partners of the primary recipient are exempt from the requirements of this section.*
- *GS-15 step 10 is a salary table; the rate listed does not include fringe benefits, travel, indirect costs or other expenses.*
- *Procurement through a competitive process does not constitute an approved justification for exceeding the GS-15 step 10 rate; conversely, approval of a rate exceeding GS-15 step 10 does not eliminate the requirement to conduct a competitive procurement process.*

Indirect Costs for Contractors/Consultants

Indirect costs for contractors/consultants are allowed. The indirect cost rate cannot exceed the maximum allowable (see [Indirect Cost Rate](#), page 4). Indirect costs cannot be increased from the originally approved amount.

Equipment

Equipment is tangible, nonexpendable, personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit. Scientific research equipment is allowable with prior approval from OGA and USDA. General purpose equipment is not allowable.

Please see [Property Management and Disposition](#) on page 16 for additional requirements.

Publicity and Acknowledgment

Publicity

Multi-State Partners must notify OGA in writing at least two working days before any news/press releases or public conferences are initiated by the Multi-State Partners or their contractors relating to the project and any project results.

Acknowledgment of Support

Multi-State Partners may acknowledge USDA's SCMP support whenever projects funded, in whole or in part, are publicized in any news media, brochures, publications, audiovisuals, or other types of promotional material. Multi-State Partners may not use the USDA or CDFA logo. A copy of the publication, whether acknowledging USDA's SCMP support or not, should be submitted to OGA for its files.

If USDA's SCMP support is acknowledged, the acknowledgment must read as follows: "Funding for [Project or Publication] was made possible by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service through grant AM17020XXXXG0[XX]. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA."

Invoicing

Invoicing for Payment of Grant Awards

Reimbursement Payments

Multi-State Partners submit invoices to OGA for reimbursement of actual expenditures incurred. Invoices must be submitted quarterly in arrears. The quarterly periods are:

- June 1 – August 31
- September 1 – November 30
- December 1 – February 28
- March 1 – May 31

Note:

- *The first invoice period will be July 1, 2018 – August 31, 2018. The following invoices will coincide to the quarters listed above.*
- *It may take up to 45 days from the date the invoice request is received for a check to be issued by the California State Controller's Office on behalf of CDFA.*

Invoices

The OGA initiates each invoice cycle by generating an electronic invoice template. OGA emails Multi-State Partners an invoice template with the Grant Agreement Number, Primary Recipient Name, Project Title, Invoice Number, Project Budget, and Invoiced to Date entered. The invoice template provided by OGA must be used; invoices generated or altered by the primary recipient will not be accepted.

When to Submit Invoices

Invoices are due no later than 30 days after the quarterly invoice period, and are required even if no project costs are incurred during the invoice period. Final invoices are due no later than 30 days following the expiration of the Grant Agreement term or after the project is complete, whichever comes first.

Completing an Invoice

Reimbursement Invoice. The primary recipient completes the Amount Requested column on the invoice, signs, dates, and submits the invoice to OGA. The primary recipient will also enter the amount of Program Income earned, if applicable.

No Expenditure Invoice. Recipient checks the “NO EXPENDITURES” box, signs, dates, and submits the invoice to OGA. No Expenditure Invoices must be accompanied by an explanation why no costs were incurred during the billing period.

Final Invoice. The primary recipient follows the instructions for a Reimbursement Invoice, and marks the invoice as “Final” indicating all payment obligations have been met and no further payments are due.

Withholds

Withhold Payment Notification

OGA will issue a Withhold Payment Notification to delay payment of an invoice if there is an invoice discrepancy or error, unallowable costs claimed, unresolved desk review findings, or late reports. The

Withhold Payment Notification describes the reason for withholding payment and what actions, if any, are required to resolve the issues for withholding payment. Invoices are processed once all issues are resolved. A Withhold Payment Notification will not be sent for funds withheld pending closeout, see Withhold Pending Closeout below.

See [Appeal Process](#) on page 15 for information regarding appealing a Withhold Payment Notification.

Withhold Pending Closeout

OGA will withhold 10 percent of the Grant Agreement award until approval of the Final Invoice and Final Performance Report, and/or resolution of any performance issues or desk review findings prior to closeout. A Withhold Payment Notification will not be sent, and the 10 percent withhold may not be appealed.

Reporting Requirements

Progress Reports

Multi-State Partners are required to submit a progress report no later than 30 days after each reporting period ends. The progress report is used to identify milestones, results achieved, success stories, potential concerns, and other pertinent information, such as program income. Multi-State Partners will receive a progress report template from OGA approximately one month prior to each reporting due date, which are:

- June 30, 2019 (reporting period 7/1/2018 – 5/31/2019)
- June 30, 2020 (reporting period 6/1/2019 – 5/31/2020)

Final Performance Report

Multi-State Partners are required to submit a Final Performance Report no later than 30 calendar days following the expiration date of the Grant Agreement or after the project is complete, whichever comes first. Multi-State Partners will receive a final report template from OGA approximately one month prior to the end of the project.

Single Audit Requirements

State, local, and tribal governments, non-profit organizations, and institutions of higher education that expend more than \$750,000 annually in federal awards must comply with the single audit requirements contained in [2 CFR 200 Subpart F](#), and are required to submit a copy of the single audit report to OGA.

Compliance and Remedies for Noncompliance

Compliance Reviews

All Grant Agreements are subject to at least one desk review and/or one performance site visit. The purpose of compliance reviews is to determine whether measurable outcomes are being met, evaluate accomplishments, and to review financial records and documentation to ensure funds are being used for the intended purpose in compliance with federal cost principles, the Grant Agreement terms and conditions, and the GMP.

Desk reviews are generally conducted during the term of the Grant Agreement, but may be conducted after the Grant Agreement has ended. Multi-State Partners must allow access to records and documentation relevant to the Grant Agreement, as well as any employees who may reasonably have information related to the Grant Agreement.

Multi-State Partners may be required to submit supporting documentation for an invoice for a desk review. Documentation may include but is not limited to timesheets and payroll records, travel logs that document mileage, invoices/receipts for costs incurred, lodging, and meals, and contractor/consultant contracts and invoices.

A Grant Specialist will contact the Multi-State Partners to schedule a performance site visit and/or desk review.

Remedies for Noncompliance

Pursuant to [2 CFR 200.338](#), OGA may take one or more of the following remedies for failure to comply with federal and state laws and regulations, Grant Agreement terms and conditions, and/or the GMP:

- Disallowance of costs for all or part of the cost of the activity or action not in compliance, or for the invoicing or reporting period not in compliance;
- Withdrawal of authorized personnel approval;
- Withholding of payments;
- Imposition of additional conditions; and,
- Suspension or termination of the Grant Agreement.

Additional Conditions

Pursuant to [2 CFR 200.207](#), OGA may impose additional specific conditions on Multi-State Partners who are noncompliant with federal and state laws and regulations, Grant Agreement terms and conditions, and/or the GMP.

Reasons for imposing additional conditions include but are not limited to:

- Late invoices or progress reports;
- Desk review findings;
- History of unsatisfactory performance; and/or

- Noncompliance with terms and conditions of a current or previous grant award administered by OGA.

Additional condition examples include but are not limited to:

- More frequent submission of progress reports;
- More frequent submission of invoices;
- Submission of supporting documents with each invoice;
- Additional site visits, desk review, and/or an audit; and/or
- Establishing additional prior approvals.

Multi-State Partners will be notified in writing of the additional conditions imposed; the reasons for imposing the additional conditions; the actions required, if any, to remove the additional conditions; the timeframe in which the required actions must be completed; and the method of appealing the additional conditions imposed.

Termination of Grant Agreement

Pursuant to [2 CFR 200.338 – 200.340](#), OGA may terminate a Grant Agreement for noncompliance. The Multi-State Partners will be notified in writing of the reasons for termination, the date the termination is effective, and the method for appealing the termination.

Appeal Process

Actions that may be appealed include but are not limited to:

- Withhold Payment Notification (see [page 11](#));
- Additional Conditions (see [page 14](#)); or
- Termination of Agreement (see [page 15](#))

Appeals must be in writing either mailed to:

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Office of Hearings and Appeals
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Or via email to: CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov

The appeal must include a copy of the notification or the name of the Multi-State Partners organization, the grant agreement number, the title of the project, the reasons the action should not be imposed, including any documentation to support the appeal, and the signature of the authorized representative. Appeals must be postmarked (date stamped if via email) within 10 calendar days of the date of the notification of the action from OGA. Appeals not received within this timeframe will be denied.

The action specified in the notification remains in effect while the appeal is under review.

Closeout

Before the Grant Agreement is closed, OGA will review the final performance report and invoice, and verify resolution of any project performance concerns or compliance desk review findings. A closeout letter and final payment will be issued when closeout review is completed.

Note: Closeout does not cancel property management, record retention or financial accountability requirements.

Property Management and Disposition

Scientific Research Equipment

The purchase, use, management, maintenance, disposition, and reporting of scientific research equipment purchased with or developed under a Grant Agreement is governed by the property standards contained in [2 CFR 200.310 – 200.316](#). It is important to note these requirements remain in effect after the close of the Grant Agreement.

Property Records

Multi-State Partners must maintain property records for scientific research equipment, including but not limited to a description of the equipment, a serial number or other identification number, identification of the Grant Agreement under which the equipment was acquired, the acquisition date, acquisition cost, percentage of federal participation in the cost of the equipment, the location, use and condition of the equipment, and any ultimate disposition information including the date of disposal and sale price of the equipment.

Disposition of Scientific Research Equipment and Supplies

If scientific research equipment purchased during the term of the grant has a fair market value of less than \$5,000 at the close of the Grant Agreement, it is no longer considered equipment and is not subject to the federal regulations governing equipment. If the fair market value is \$5,000 or more at the close of the Grant Agreement, the use, management, and disposition of the equipment is subject to the provisions in [2 CFR 200.313](#). A Tangible Personal Property Report Disposition Report/Request (form [SF-428-C](#)) must be completed and submitted to OGA prior to disposition. These requirements apply until the fair market value of the equipment is \$5,000 or less.

If there is a residual inventory of unused supplies exceeding \$5,000 in total aggregate value upon termination or completion of the project, the Multi-State Partners must comply with [2 CFR 200.314](#).

A Grant Specialist can provide guidance regarding disposition of equipment or supplies.

Record Retention

Record retention and accessibility is governed by [2 CFR 200.333](#) and [2 CFR 200.337](#).

Multi-State Partners must retain financial records, project records, and supporting documents until August 31, 2024 or until any litigation related to the grant is resolved, whichever is later. All records must be made available to OGA or its designees upon request.

Records that must be retained include:

- Timesheets and records that reflect the total activity (including descriptions) for which each employee is compensated;
- Actual expenditure invoices of direct costs charged to grant fund;
- Employee reimbursement claims including lodging, per diem and transportation receipts;
- Documentation supporting calculation or methodology to determine indirect costs; and,
- All other supporting documentation related to the Grant Agreement.